The Making of A PVC Body Lens
(A D-I-Y Project For A Homemade Camera)

By James R. Kyle, Photographer

It is a fact that I really like building things - ANYTHING. Most of my life has been centered around making “stuff” and or, in the workplace, improving what others have designed. (I just can’t help myself when I find anything that I feel I might be able to make and or improve upon.)

In that I am very much involved in the experimentation of Making “Paper Negatives” I like building my own equipment for that purpose. After building a few “Sliding-Box” Cameras, I thought that I would really like making my own lenses for them. I did get a lot of ideas from “Goggling” on-line. And from other photographers who have also made their own. The way that I do things may not be for everyone - and that’s good, as I want anyone who ventures on the path of building things to make use of my ideas to do their own designs and have fun in doing so. With that in mind I present to you the way that I have built my PVC Lens for my “Sliding-Box” Camera(s).

Almost any magnifying glass may be used for this project. Keep in mind that the “Focal Length” must be taken into account. For this I used my 4X5 inch “Crown Graphic” - and my 8X10 inch Ansco, to easily determine that distance. (From front standard to rear, for the infinitive distance. This article was written for a lens that shall be used on a 4X5 camera.

I shall not elaborate as to the way to do this project - instead - I shall let the photos “speak” for them selves. You shall have complete freedom in the way you build your lens(s). Be careful, measure twice - cut once, follow “common sense” be safe, not sorry.

The photos are on Page 2.

Good luck.

Go to Your Local Hardware Store And Get THIS.
(Size Varies on Lens Element Used)

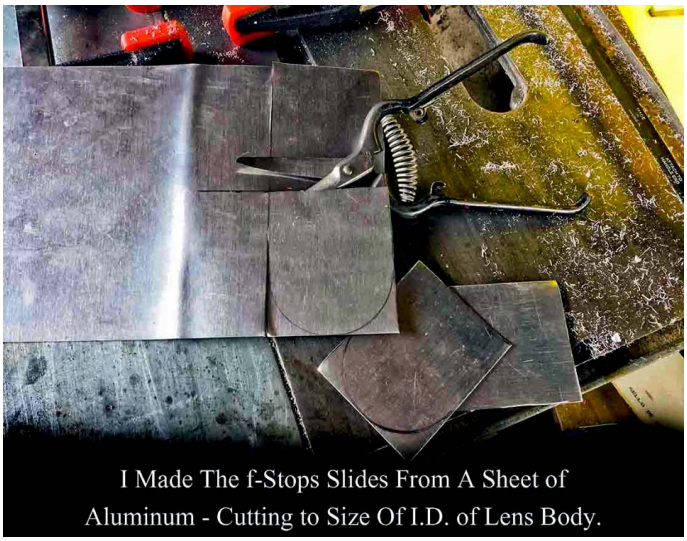
"Lens Element" Taken From A Pocket Magnafyer.
Available From (WWW.SurplusShed.com)
$1.50 + Shipping

Place Len Element Into PVC Fitting
And Place the "Cap" on Threaded Body

Lens Element Mounted in PVC Fitting

Mark a Line where the f-Stop Slot Will be Cut

After Sawing The PVC Fitting
Finish With A 300 Grit Sandpaper

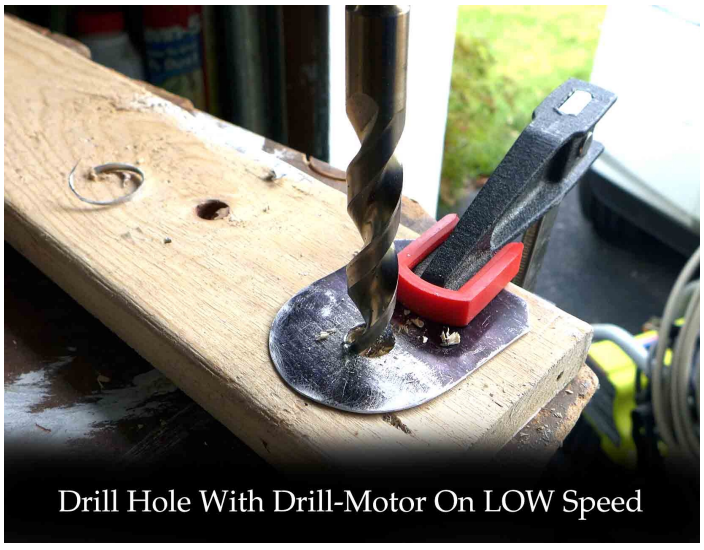


I Made The f-Stops Slides From A Sheet of Aluminum - Cutting to Size Of I.D. of Lens Body.

After Making and With a Small "Tin Snips" - Cut Out The Blank For The "Waterhouse" f-Stop From Aluminum Metal Sheet.

Place The Small f-Stop Over The Next Blank To Drill The Next Size Hole.

After Cutting The Blank Remove Sharp Edges With Fine Grip Sandpaper.



Drill Hole With Drill-Motor On LOW Speed

Remember To Check The Center of The Drilled Hole - This Is A Must.

Waterhouse Stops With Lens & PVC Body
f-18 & f-36 Shown

2nd Coat of Paint

Finished
(Shown With f-16 Waterhouse Stop In Place)

Now = Go have fun and make photographs with your very own D-I-Y 4X5 camera Lens.

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